



One Year Update

14 months ago, I drove away from Lubbock, Texas after 8 months of intensive Bible study and training for the mission field. Above is a photo of my AIM team and below is a photo of my classmates with one of my favorite teachers.

One year ago today, I hugged friends and family goodbye and boarded a plane headed to Santa Rosa, my new home for the next 20 months.



May 24, 2018



The first 6 weeks of our time in Central America was spent at language school in Antigua, Guatemala. This was a complete immersion into the Spanish language, staying with a Guatemalan family and spending 8 hours a day speaking Spanish one on one with a teacher. To the left is a photo of my first teacher Oscar and I. This time also gave us the opportunity over the weekends to hike and camp on volcanos, spend a lot of time together watching movies, and visit a church of Christ. If you're ever in Guatemala, I highly recommend the overnight hiking trip on Volcan Acatenango. It's a priceless experience.



May 24, 2018

Arriving in Santa Rosa after studying Spanish, I began a time of trying to learn the culture and job requirements I needed to respect. From July to November I was a teacher's assistant in the mornings as part of the DESEO team, and in the afternoons I helped with the basketball and tutoring programs.



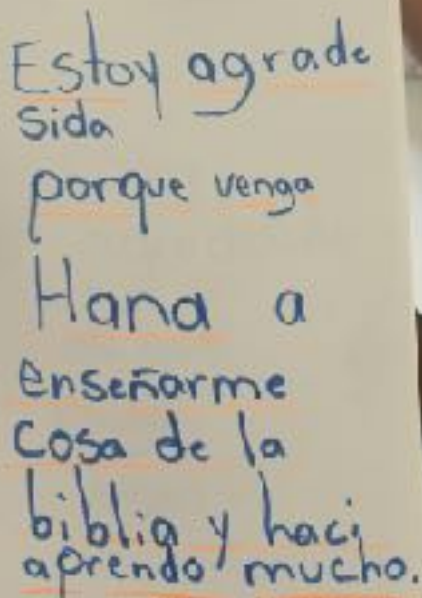


November through December we worked on putting together a Christmas musical which we presented in the church building December 13-15. This was a collaboration of the children's choir CANTO, the church choir Voces de Belen, and other employees and volunteers of Mission Upreach.



I was able to go home for 1 week for Christmas; during that week I was extremely encouraged by seeing friends and family and by attending my home church. Unfortunately I also got the flu.





Estoy agrade
Sida
porque venga
Hana a
enseñarme
cosa de la
biblia y haci
aprendo mucho.

This year has been challenging for me. I'm no longer a teacher's assistant, instead I am responsible to teach 7 classes by myself every week. This is a testament to how much God has done in my life. My team is the first of four generations to be given that much responsibility as part of the DESEO team, and all four of us are teaching. Also, instead of helping with basketball and tutoring, this year I'm helping with CANTO the children's choir as an assistant director. I have a passion for music and I am so thankful for this opportunity to train young singers in both accompanied and acapella music.

"I'm thankful because Hannah comes to teach me things from the Bible and I learn a lot."



Unfortunately, on top of all these new responsibilities, I went through the worst season of depression and anxiety I have experienced January through April. Things only got better for me when I asked for help and started seeing a psychologist here in Honduras. I now have appointments once a month and am taking medicine to treat my anxiety, which has helped tremendously. I haven't thought consistently about suicide since starting treatment, so I feel that it's been successful so far.

The Bible passage that best describes my 2018 so far is 2 Corinthians 12:7-9. I have had a successful time here so far. Even though I have been homesick and depressed for several months, God has been CLEARLY at work through my life. I have only received positive feedback from my bosses on the work I'm doing, I've been gaining the trust of children and adults alike, and God has been at work in the lives of people

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

May 24, 2018



around me. I can only give God the credit for any success I've had, because I have been so low and incapable by myself. I will not be ashamed of my mental health problems, because God's power is made obvious through them.

However 2018 has not just been all work and no play! Semana Santa, the week before Easter, we had a vacation from work. We used that opportunity to go to the beach at Punta Sal, and to go to some Mayan ruins a few hours away from Santa Rosa. This was a much needed vacation and cherished time with my AIM teammates.



Prayer Requests:

Brittany is having health problems.

My parents and home church are coming in June to visit!

The 1st CANTO concert is in June.